

REMEMBERING KEVIN NISHITA

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kevin Fumito Nishita, a retired San Francisco Bay Area police officer who was murdered in a senseless act of gun violence while working as a security guard for a television crew in Oakland, CA.

Kevin's death has devastated not only his family and friends, but also the Bay Area's law enforcement and journalism communities, which had come to know him as an energetic, professional protector and a supportive friend. He died protecting practitioners of one of our nation's most sacred rights: the freedom of the press.

Kevin served as an officer with the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department and the Hayward Police Department before joining the San Jose Police Department in 2001. There, he worked as a Gang Investigations detective as well as working the Gaming/Vice Unit. In addition to his police assignments, Kevin also spent some time representing his peers as a director with the San José Police Officers Association.

He then joined the Colma Police Department in 2012, serving as a Detective, Field Training Officer, and Officer in Charge before being promoted to Sergeant in 2015 and retiring in 2018. Since early 2020, Kevin worked with the Star Protection Agency, often accompanying personnel from various Bay Area television stations into unsafe areas.

He was protecting a KRON4 news crew in downtown Oakland at midday on Nov. 24 when a group of men attempted to rob the crew of its camera. Kevin intervened and was shot; he succumbed to his injuries three days later.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Nishita; his mother, Mary Yukiko Nishita; his father, Dan Fumito Nishita; his stepson, Enrique Ramiro Serrano; his daughter-in-law, Elaine Hebron Edjan; his daughter, Maureen Campos; his son-in-law, Marlowe Campos; and his grandsons, Titus Mackoa Campos, Kahuna Cudi Campos, and Dash Wilfred Campos.

Colleagues remember Kevin by nicknames including "Turbo" and "Stitch," after the animated character, for his high-energy, always-moving persona. His family says he was an extremely hard worker who never asked for anything in return, who opened his home to so many people who needed help, a man of deep compassion.

Kevin Nishita's death should be a wake-up call that gun violence is a scourge upon our communities that must be addressed and stopped. His life should be remembered as a celebration of public service and fellowship, a model for all who knew and loved him. I offer his family, friends, and colleagues my deepest condolences on this terrible loss.

COMMEMORATING THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN'S 50TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on December 16, the Kingdom of Bahrain will mark its 50th National Day. I'm joined by many of my colleagues in congratulating the Bahraini people on this impressive milestone.

The contributions of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the peace and security of the wider Middle East region cannot be understated; look no further than the support of Bahrain in assisting U.S. evacuation efforts in Afghanistan, or to the Kingdom's hosting of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. Bahrain also assists U.S. counterterrorism efforts in marginalizing the use of drones by Iranian proxy groups.

Bahrain remains an instrumental security partner and ally of the United States. In 2002, Bahrain became a Major Non-NATO Ally, a designation given only to close partner states. Through our enhanced defense cooperation, we have been able to curtail the malign and toxic influence of the Iranian regime.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has so clearly augmented the prospect for regional peace through its participation in the Abraham Accords, and now maintains an embassy in Israel. Bahrain's Constitution continues to enshrine freedom of religion guarantees for all Bahraini citizens—to include women's right to vote and run for office.

In recognition of its 50th National Day, I warmly congratulate the people of Bahrain on the founding of their young nation, and wish them good health, prosperity, and security for many more years.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY BETH WALKER AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise—along with HANK JOHNSON, Chair of the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet—to thank Mary Beth Walker for her service to the Committee as a counsel detailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, Mary Beth has helped the Committee achieve a great deal. This includes the passage last Congress of the Trademark Modernization Act, which, among other things, responded to the growing number of fraudulent trademark applications as well as the documented large number of unused marks on the register by creating two new ex parte proceedings to remove registered trademarks that were not in use when the application was made, or had never been used. This will help those seeking new registrations, like small businesses, have a better chance at obtaining a strong trademark of their initial preference.

Mary Beth was also instrumental in advancing the SHOP SAFE Act in this Congress. This bill seeks to address the scourge of counterfeits being sold by third parties on online e-commerce platforms by reforming a decade-old liability structure established by case law rather than Congress. Mary Beth worked tirelessly with stakeholders and other Congressional staff to try to ensure that the bill strikes the right balance to make a meaningful difference in reducing the number of counterfeits being sold to unsuspecting consumers.

Mary Beth has shown herself to be a dedicated public servant and a true team player, willing to help out on other hearings and intellectual property issues that came before the Committee. We will miss her greatly, but we are glad that her expertise will remain in service to the public with her return to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as an Associate Solicitor.

We thank Mary Beth for her service to the Committee and wish her the best of luck with the next chapter in her career.

HONORING DR. DAVID VIERRA FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE ANTELOPE VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. David Vierra for 40 years of service in public education and the lasting contributions he has made to the Antelope Valley, his lifelong home. In August of this year, David retired from his position as Antelope Valley Union High School District Superintendent after serving for nearly two decades in that role.

Upon graduating from Antelope Valley High School in Lancaster, California, one of the very schools that he would later serve as District Superintendent, David earned his bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge, and subsequently began his career in education in 1981 as a teacher in the Lancaster Elementary School District. Soon after, he took his talents abroad, serving in the U.S. Department of Defense as an instructor at Kaiserslautern American High School in Germany, where he also coached football and basketball.

In 1998, David became the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services at the Antelope Valley Union High School District and just four years later—a true testament to his inherent leadership skills—David was tapped to lead the school district as Superintendent. Under David's direction, the Antelope Valley Union High School District has transformed into a vastly successful school system that prepares students for the 21st century and has even been internationally recognized. In 2018, Antelope Valley Union High School District received a special, six-year districtwide accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), a world-renowned accrediting association in the United States that works closely with the Office of Overseas Schools under the Department of State. The Antelope Valley Union High School

District is the first school district in the continental United States to receive district-wide WASC accreditation.

Over the past few decades, Antelope Valley students have received full-ride scholarships to prestigious universities and have been awarded national recognitions for their successes. David also worked to establish Students on Academic Rise (SOAR), an early college high school program that prepares students, many of which come from disadvantaged backgrounds, seeking alternative career paths to successfully enter the workforce.

David's passion for education reflects his own academic journey, as he earned a master's degree from Azusa Pacific University and a PhD in education philosophy from Claremont Graduate University, all while balancing his leadership obligations and commitment to helping students pursue their interests in and outside of the classroom. David is also well-known in the Antelope Valley community as being exceptionally generous with his time and talent, dedicating countless hours to local civic, athletic, and educational organizations. David has served the Antelope Valley Hospital Foundation as a Director, the University of Antelope Valley as Chairman of the Board, and the Antelope Valley Board of Trade as a Board Member on its Education Committee. This past summer, David received the key to the City of Lancaster, a well-deserved honor.

Known for his personal approach to education and leadership, David spent his time as Superintendent building relationships with students, parents, and teachers. The President of the Antelope Valley Union High School District's Board of Education noted that this special quality, along with David's integrity and "unwavering commitment to solving the near impossible"—especially during the coronavirus pandemic—helped him lead the Antelope Valley Union High School District "through the unthinkable." On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I wish David, his wife, and three children all the best as they enter this exciting new chapter of life.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF REVEREND ELIZABETH COLEMAN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Reverend Elizabeth V. Coleman.

A lifelong Bay Area resident, Elizabeth was born in 1965 and raised in San Pablo. She graduated from San Francisco University Law School in 1999, launching her legal career. Elizabeth went on to earn a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Community Leadership from American Baptist Seminary. She became an ordained Reverend in 2011.

Elizabeth's desire to help children and families was evident throughout her career. After working for some time as a corporate lawyer, Elizabeth realized her passion for advocacy. Elizabeth supported young people as a court appointed advocate with Alameda and Contra Costa County's Juvenile Dependency Courts. Elizabeth also played a significant role in establishing the Justice Rising Youth Court at

the Berkeley Technology Academy, a program aimed at reducing suspension rates. Additionally, Elizabeth worked with a number of nonprofits throughout her career to advance the needs of children, including the San Francisco Children's Legal Defense Fund. Elizabeth was a champion of children's issues and fought tirelessly to promote justice through her work.

Elizabeth was also deeply passionate about her community. She was an Associate Pastor at McGee Avenue Baptist Church in Berkeley and ran programs focused on restorative justice and addressing food insecurity. Elizabeth will be remembered for her compassionate nature and her commitment to service.

Sadly, Elizabeth passed away earlier this month. She was a cherished member of the East Bay community and will be remembered for her leadership, integrity, and compassion. Please join me in honoring Elizabeth for her many contributions to our community.

CONGRATULATING THE AUSABLE VALLEY GIRLS SOCCER TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the AuSable Valley girls' varsity soccer team on winning the New York State Championship title.

For the first time since the start of the program, the AuSable Valley girls' soccer team earned their place in the Final Four game led by head coach Lindsey Douglas. They carried this momentum with them through to the state championship game, and on November 14th, the AuSable Valley girls' soccer team made program history when they valiantly defeated the Carle Place Frogs in a 1–0 win.

This momentous win was not achieved overnight. The team was focused and determined to reach this goal all season. The Patriots' unity and dedication was evident in their impressive performance in the championship game. The New York State Public High School Championship game was fiercely competitive and not easily won. Their win was no small feat and deserves to be celebrated.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the AuSable Valley girls' varsity soccer team on their tremendous win and their well-deserved state championship title. I hope that their hard work and dedication serves as inspiration for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO JULIA TAYLOR

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julia Taylor, an innovative business leader, trailblazer, and the president of the Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC) for 19 years. In 2002, Ms. Taylor became the first woman to become president of the Civic Group and tirelessly served for almost two decades.

GMC is a private sector civic organization whose mission is to contribute to the cultural and economic base of the Milwaukee Metropolitan area. The organization was formed in the late 1940s and is comprised of leaders in business, the professions, labor, education and philanthropy, and nonprofit community development. The GMC is made up of almost 200 leaders of businesses, financial institutions, law firms, nonprofit groups, and educational institutions in the metropolitan area and is dedicated to improving Southeastern Wisconsin's civic life and economy.

Since 2002, the GMC and the City of Milwaukee progressed exponentially under Ms. Taylor's leadership. Julia Taylor brought greater diversity to the membership and the GMC board. GMC now has a record number of minorities and women serving in leadership roles. Ms. Taylor expanded GMC's work to develop and innovate all areas of Milwaukee, especially impoverished areas that are too often forgotten. She worked tirelessly to build new relationships with local community leaders and stakeholders. Because of Ms. Taylor's work, GMC is having a much greater impact in neighborhoods, education and economic development at the most basic levels.

Under Ms. Taylor's leadership, the GMC won local and national support for its projects that include efforts to promote and support economic prosperity, vibrancy of place, and development of innovation and talent. Due to Ms. Taylor's work, the work of the GMC in building a better, greater Milwaukee for all of our citizens is more important than ever.

Ms. Taylor serves on several boards and was the Executive Director of the Milwaukee YWCA for many years before assuming her current position. She is being honored and recognized for her decades of community engagement in the Greater Milwaukee Area. In fact, Ms. Taylor continues to set a strong example to us all by displaying humor, grace and good will to all and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Julia Taylor for her contributions to the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin. She has helped transform the lives of many people in our community.

CONGRATULATING BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT, TINA MARQUIS, ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tina Marquis, the President of the Boulder Valley School District Board of Education, in Colorado for her many years of service to our community and our students.

Tina has been a Board Member of Boulder Valley since 2013, and during her tenure she also served as the Board Treasurer and four years as President.

She has a more than decade-long history of volunteerism and service to the Boulder Valley community, beginning with the elementary school her two children attended—and eventually at the district-level through the District Accountability Committee, where she served as the chairwoman for two years.